



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

*This information is provided as a resource by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff.
All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending November 1, 2013

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	179-207	192.00	+3.07
400-500	167-196	179.44	-0.62
500-600	154-175	163.06	-2.11
600-700	149-165	157.32	-1.41
700-800	142-159	150.48	-1.02
800-900	134-147	140.97	-1.28
900+	125-138	133.00	-2.75

Heifers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	145-168	156.00	-3.78
400-500	140-164	151.55	+1.13
500-600	132-152	140.79	-0.63
600-700	129-144	135.78	-0.66
700-800	124-141	131.25	-1.10
800+	122-134	129.20	+0.87

Source: Canfax.

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that a total of 52,445 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 40,610 head marketed the previous week.

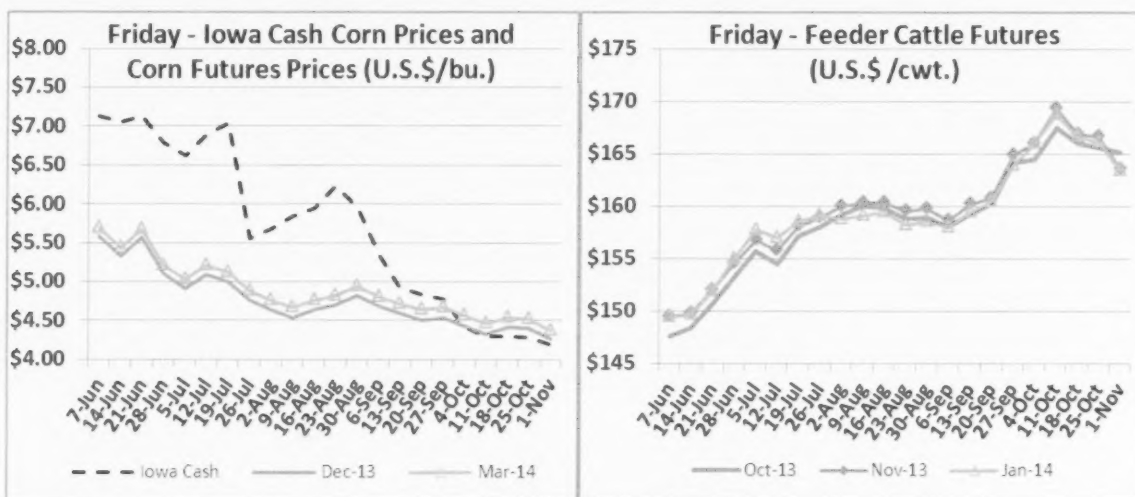
Feeder cattle prices were mostly lower over the week with large volumes of calves being sold. Average prices for feeder steers ranged from \$2.75 per cwt lower to \$3.07 per cwt higher over the week. The feeder steers in the 300-400 lb. weight category had the biggest and only gains from the previous week increasing \$3.07 per cwt. All other categories had losses with the largest loss in the 900+lb. category which lost \$2.75 per cwt over the week.

Feeder heifer prices were mixed but mostly lower over the week. Feeder heifer prices ranged from \$3.78 per cwt lower to \$1.13 per cwt higher. The 400-500 lb. weight category increased the most at \$1.13 per cwt while the 800+ lb. weight category gained \$0.87 per cwt. The remaining weight categories all had losses over the week with the 300-400lb. weight category losing the most at \$3.78 per cwt.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the October 31, 2013 U.S. feeder cattle index at US\$165.11 per cwt was calculated at -\$21.69 per cwt (US\$165.11/0.9590 - \$150.48), a basis widening of \$0.61 per cwt from -\$21.08 per cwt the previous week.

Feeder cattle futures prices were lower over the week with the October to January contracts decreasing between US\$0.440 per cwt and US\$3.150 per cwt (Nov.), week-over-week. The October feeder contract expired at US\$165.110 per cwt while the January contract settled the week at US\$166.475 per cwt.

Corn prices were lower over the week. The Iowa cash price decreased 9 cents to close Friday at US\$4.19 per bushel, while the December corn futures contract decreased almost 13 cents to close the week at US\$4.27 per bushel.



Source: CME

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Live cattle futures prices were mixed. The October contract increased US\$1.925 per cwt to expire at US\$134.500. The December contract decreased US\$0.900 per cwt to settle at US\$132.075 per cwt while the February contract decreased US\$0.550 per cwt and settled the week at US\$133.475 per cwt.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	November 1	October 25	Change
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	74.00	78.33	-4.33
D3 Live	65.75	69.33	-3.58
Rail	144-149	147-152	-3.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were noticeably lower from the previous week with D1,2 slaughter cows decreasing \$4.33 per cwt to average \$74.00 per cwt, while D3 slaughter cows decreased \$3.58 per cwt to average \$65.75 per cwt, from last week.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada were higher over the week. Fed steers in Alberta were reported to average \$123.66 per cwt, up \$1.42 per cwt from \$122.24 per cwt the previous week. Fed cattle prices in Alberta reached new record all-time highs.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US\$131.99 per cwt, almost unchanged from the previous week. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US\$207.95 per cwt., up 2.2 per cent from the previous week.

Beef cutout prices continued higher over the week averaging US\$204.56 per cwt (Choice 600-900 lb.), up 2.2 per cent from US\$200.09 per cwt the previous week. Beef production for the week averaged 499.4 million lb., up 1.1 per cent from 494.1 million lb. the previous week, but down 2.3 per cent from 511.1 million lb. the same week a year ago. Weekly cattle slaughter numbers totaled 624,000 head, up 1.0 per cent from 618,000 head the previous week, but down 3.3 per cent from 645,000 head a year ago.

The U.S. beef stocks in cold storage totaled 445.0 million lb. on September 30, 2013, up 3.4 per cent from 430.2 million lb. on August 31, 2013, and up 4.7 per cent from 424.9 million lb. on September 30, 2012.

United States exported 105,544 metric tons of beef plus beef variety meats in August 2013, up 5.1 per cent from 100,468 metric tons in July 2013, but down 1.1 per cent from 118,913 metric tons in August 2012. Sales by volume from July were higher to Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico and Canada. By dollar amount, U.S. beef exports in August 2013 were US\$563.3 million, up 15.9 per cent from US\$486.2 million in July 2013, but down 9.6 per cent from US\$622.8 million in August 2012. (U.S. Meat Federation)

On Thursday October 31, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly *Cattle on Feed Report* for October 1, 2013.

October 1, 2013, Cattle on Feed (in U.S. feedlots with 1,000+ capacity)			
	2012	2013	Per cent of previous year
On feed September 1	10,647,000	9,876,000	93
Placed during September	2,004,000	2,025,000	101
Marketed during September	1,598,000	1,695,000	106
Other disappearance during September	64,000	62,000	97
On feed October 1	10,989,000	10,144,000	92

Source: USDA

The USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report indicated that cattle on feed numbers for September 1, 2013 were 9.876 million head, down 7.2 per cent from 10.647 million head on September 1, 2012, and down 1.5 per cent from 10.026 million head on August 1, 2013. The number of cattle placed on feed in September 2013 was up 1.0 per cent while the number of fed cattle marketed in September was up 6.1 per cent, compared to September 2012. The cattle placements in September were slightly below the actual trade estimates. The cattle on feed for October 1, 2013 were estimated at 10.144 million head, 7.7 per cent below October 1, 2012 numbers. The October cattle on feed numbers were slightly below the average trade estimates. The report for the most part was close to pre-report estimates and will likely have not much effect on the markets.

Friday Price Information

Product	This Week (November 1)	Week of: (October 25)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US\$)	.9590	.9565
U.S. Cash Cattle		
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US\$ per cwt)	165.11	165.07
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)	735	743
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US\$ per cwt)	131.99	132.23
Feed Grains		
Barley Lethbridge (\$/tonne)	185.00	185.00
(\$ per bu.)	4.03	4.03
Corn Iowa State Average (CDN\$/tonne)*	172.00	176.16
(US\$ per bu.)	4.19	4.28
Omaha, NE (CDN\$/tonne)*	172.83	178.22
(US\$ per bu.)	4.21	4.33
Futures		
December Corn (US\$ per bu.)	4.27¼	4.40
March Corn (US\$ per bu.)	4.37½	4.52
Oct. Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)*expiry	134.500	132.575
December Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	132.075	132.975
Oct. Feeder Cattle (US\$ per cwt)*expiry	165.110	165.550
January Feeder Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	163.475	166.050

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News

* conversion to CDN\$ is based on Friday's CDN\$ closing rate

Note: Cow-calf producers in Saskatchewan are reminded to check with their local market operators regarding current market conditions for non-fed cattle. Producers are also reminded that old, thin cows have a very low market value. The non-fed prices quoted each week do not represent the market price for these animals. As an alternative to transporting these animals, you may want to check with your local veterinarian or the nearest Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office to see if these animals are eligible for testing as part of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program. Producers receive \$75 from the CFIA for each eligible sample submitted. The goal of this program is to prove that the BSE control measures implemented in Canada are working.

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